

As a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, I keep rather busy with my studies and research; yet, free time presents several options. One option includes listening to the radio. I have six radio stations programmed in my radio. Three of the stations are Christian radio stations, and I listen to two of those three on a regular basis.

The threat of other services overrunning a particular service is nothing new to me either. I also am an amateur radio operator, and I find this unfortunate that people choose to seek precedence over useful services. For instance, the two Christian radio stations to which I listen encourage me. They provide information and music that secular stations cannot provide; yet, if the low power FM stations overtake the FM services, then I may lose this listening option.

I realize that I based the above comments upon emotion, which is not always the best way to support a cause. Within a more rational state, these Christian radio stations have several translator stations throughout the country. They are supported by listeners and serve a large population (> 2 million people per station). If a station were serving only a local population of more than 2 million people, I believe that an outcry would arise from that group, and the station could be spared. Other radio stations serve a broad base nationwide, and those stations still ought to remain.

Another logistical problem arises. According to the definition on the FCC website, the LPFM have a service radius of 5.6 km. With a small service radius, more land would need to be claimed for several stations if an organization wanted multiple stations to reach a particular area. The cost effectiveness for a large population may be astronomical.

The LPFM service serves a niche of people, and, currently, they must not cause interference with the primary service. If the roles are reversed, LPFM will become the primary service while translator stations may become a secondary service. As a secondary service, the translator stations would ultimately need to shut down because they transmit with power several magnitudes greater than the LPFM stations. This could affect both commercial and noncommercial translators, and the majority of the population would lose their selection of genre.

The noncommercial radio stations provide a service that most commercial stations cannot provide. Commercial stations are dictated by commercial breaks and less of the genre stated by the license. This helps the stations remain operational, but the noncommercial stations must raise funds via other means and fill a niche not provided by the commercial stations.

For instance, the noncommercial radio stations are commercial free, provide an

unbroken stream of information or music, and typically are more informative and in-dept than commercial stations. They typically serve an audience that desires something different what the commercial stations offer. By making translator stations a secondary service, the listener base disbands, and the niche must be filled. The listener base would become dissatisfied if their source of information and music were lost.

As a member of this group who has found the niche, I request that you keep LPFM as a secondary service.

Cordially,
Timothy H. Click